



From the Director of Victim Services

The 17th Annual "Tennessee Season to Remember " ceremony will be held at First Baptist Church in Nashville to honor victims of homicide on Thursday, December 5th at 5:30 p.m. State and local public officials are planning to attend the ceremony, at which families from across Tennessee will place ornaments on

memorial wreaths in honor of their loved ones. Following the ceremony, the wreaths will be displayed in the Tennessee State Capitol building throughout the holiday season.

Special music will be provided by Dr. San Franklin, Senior Pastor at Kingdom Love Worship Center in Madison TN. Mychal Austin, son of slain TDOC Correctional Administrator Debra K. Johnson will give the keynote address for the ceremony.

We hope you will join us in Nashville!

Tamika Dobbins

November 2019

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

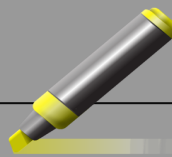
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

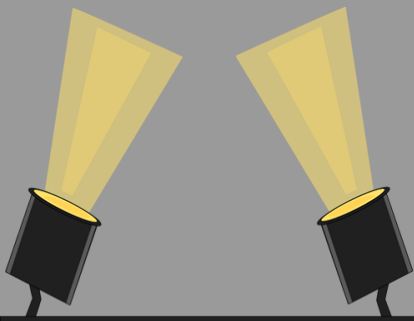
Victims Services Highlights.....



Bridget Gipson has lived in Tennessee her whole life. She started with TDOC in 2000 as the medical records clerk. She was promoted in 2005 to Administrative Assistant 1 over Inmate Institutional Records and is currently the records supervisor at Turney Center Industrial Complex (TCIX-A). As the records supervisor, Bridget has oversight of the records department at TCIX-A and ensures that releases are processed and sent out to public officials and registered victims per policy and procedure. Bridget has been the victim coordinator since 2005. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading and shopping for a good bargain. When asked what she enjoys most about being the victim coordinator at (TCIX-A), Bridget states, “assisting victim’s during difficult times has been very rewarding. Victims need a safe place and I want to be that place for them”.

TDOC celebrated Veterans all across the state this month in honor of Veterans Day. Nine-percent of the employees in TDOC are veterans. The agency recognizes the tremendous sacrifice those individuals have made, and we work with various agencies, including the Department of Veteran Services and Department of Labor and Workforce Development, on outreach and educational efforts designed with veterans in mind.

We honor our veterans for their courage to fight for our freedom. To all those who have served and are still serving we Thank you!



Victim Witness Coordinator Training

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference held it's Victim Witness Coordinators Training in Murfreesboro, TN, October 23-25, 2019. The two and a half day training was very valuable and included a plethora of victim related topics. Some of the topics included compassion fatigue, working with difficult victims of domestic violence, working with victims with mental health issues, vehicular crimes, and working with child victims. TDOC is often invited to participate and this year, Candace Whisman, Director of Sentence Management presented on sentence calculations. Ms. Whisman discussed laws that govern sentence calculations, discussed the different types of sentence credits, and gave examples of how sentences are calculated.

TDOC Victim Services Division works closely with the Victim Witness Coordinators (VWC) at the District Attorney Offices across the state. The VWC assist victims and witnesses as they navigate the court system. They explain the stages of the court system, provide information about the status of cases, and make referrals to other services that may be available to victims. Once court proceedings conclude, VWC's refer victims to get registered with TDOC so they may be notified of hearings, decisions, and releases. The Board of Parole notifies victims of parole hearing and decisions. TDOC notifies victims of advance releases, movement to facilities with a lower security designation, final release (by records office), escape and recapture, and death of an offender while in custody. Victims must be registered to receive these services.

We are thankful for our partnership with the District Attorneys General Conference.

From L to R



Doreisha Davis, BOP, Cathy Blakely, TBI, Tamika Dobbins, TDOC, Tracy Taylor, AG's Office, Sierra Ragland, AG's Office



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	October
Phone calls Received/Returned	142
Parties Registered for Notifications	158
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	8
Referrals	17
Release/Parole Inquiry	32
Other	80

Notifications	October
Registration	277
Movement	191
Advance Release	546
Final Release *	95
Death	10
Other	62

Announcements



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Save the Date

17th Annual Tennessee Season to Remember

*Thursday December 5, 2019, at
5:30 p.m.*

*First Baptist Church, 108 7th Ave-
nue S. (Broadway)*



Save the Date!

**Senator Tommy Burks Victim
Assistance Academy**

May 31-June 5, 2020

Join the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence May 31-June 5, 2020 for the annual Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy in Chattanooga, TN.

The Academy is a comprehensive basic level training designed for victim service providers and those in allied professions, including prosecutor's offices, law enforcement, child advocacy centers, and other agencies. The goal of the Academy is to improve services to crime victims by enhancing the knowledge and skills of victim advocates. This week-long session will offer a Tennessee-specific 40 hour curriculum modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy. The training addresses issues specific to Tennessee crime victims and offers people who are new to the field of victim advocacy opportunities to expand their skills and knowledge of Tennessee law by learning from experts and each other.

More information coming soon at www.tncoalition.org and on our social media platforms.

We hope to see you there!



Tennessee Department of Correction

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